

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150670

FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO : EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL - JAMES SARTORIUS

1. HUMAN RIGHTS UPDATE (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

WE ARE ASSEMBLING INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY MARCOS SINCE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. WE WANT TO PUT THESE IN PERSPECTIVE IN REVIEWING THE FULL RANGE OF RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES. ONCE WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION FROM THE MISSION ON THE DETAILS OF THESE VARIOUS ACTIONS IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION THROUGH AN ITEM IN CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS, BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR
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CONGRESS AND INTERESTED MEMBERS, AND INFORMATION MEMORANDA FOR STATE PRINCIPALS.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS -- OPIC AND IFC ACTIONS (CONFIDENTIAL)

OPIC. A STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSING OPIC PROJECTS IN LIGHT OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WAS PROPOSED AT THE

JUNE 2 MEETING OF THE "CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE", AND AWAITS DECISION. UNDER THAT PROPOSAL, OPIC PROJECTS WOULD RECEIVE ROUTINE APPROVAL UNLESS TWO CONDITIONS OBTAINED: FIRST, THE HOST COUNTRY MUST BE SEEN TO HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS OF AN "EXTREME" NATURE, ALTHOUGH NOT DESIGNATED A GROSS AND CONSISTENT VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER THE MEANING OF THE OPIC STATUTE. SECOND, THE HOST GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE A SIGNIFICANT DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT, EITHER IN FINANCIAL OR POLITICAL TERMS. OPIC IS NOW SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO MAKE A FURTHER PRESENTATION ALONG THESE LINES.

IN THE ABSENCE OF GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES, A DECISION ON THE PHELPS DODGE APPLICATION TO OPIC FOR DOLS 852,000 OF POLITICAL RISK INSURANCE WAS ALSO DEFERRED. WE HAVE DRAFTED A PROPOSED MEMO FROM EA TO CHRISTOPHER STRONGLY RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION CONSIDERING (A) THE IMPACT THAT DENIAL WOULD HAVE ON THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE GOP, AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF STATEMENTS MADE BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, (B) THE IMPLICATIONS OF DENIAL FOR OUR POLICY OF FOSTERING U.S.-ASEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AND (C) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SCENE IN THE PHILIPPINES. WE ARE NOW AWAITING OPIC'S REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ITS COMMENTS ON APPROPRIATENESS OF TIMING IN LINE WITH ITS INTENTION TO MEET WITH THE

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DEPUTY SECRETARY ON THE GENERAL ISSUE.

IFC: THE USG WAS PREPARED TO ABSTAIN ON THE IFC CEBU SHIPYARD LOAN SCHEDULED FOR A FORMAL VOTE TODAY (JUNE 13). HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF MARCOS'S ANNOUNCED AMNESTY FOR 631 DETAINEES AND STRONGLY INDICATIVE EMBASSY REPORTING THAT AQUINO WILL BE RELEASED, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THIS WOULD BE A SINGULARLY INAPPROPRIATE TIME TO SIGNAL APPARENT CONTINUING USG DISPLEASURE OVER THE ABSENCE OF PROGRESS IN THE PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THE U.S. ASKED FOR A POSTPONEMENT OF THE IFC VOTE, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN DEFERRED FOR TWO WEEKS, GIVING US TIME TO ASSESS THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND PERHAPS PRESS FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE.

3. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

CHRISTOPHER

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